Remarks/Arguments

The Examiner is thanked for the courtesy of the telephonic interview on January 13, 2004 with Haruo Yawata from the undersigned firm. Claims 1, and 16 were discussed with respect to the Wang patent. No agreement was reached.

Claims 1-18, and 21-30 are pending in the application. Independent claims 1, 10, and 18 have been amended herein. New claims 25-30 have been added. Claims 19-20, and 22-24 have been canceled herein without prejudice. The amendments to the claims and the remarks are submitted with a Request for Continued Examination of the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

I. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indicated allowability of claim 16 subject to being amended to independent form. Since (i) claim 16 was indicated to be allowable in the Office Action dated September 23, (ii) independent claim 21 (as added in the Amendment dated December 13, 2002) contains all limitations recited in originally-filed claims 10 and 16, and (iii) independent claim 10 has been amended to the extent that claim 21 is not a substantial duplicate of claim 16, claim 21 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

For at least the following reasons, Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

II. REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 1-15, AND 17-24 BASED ON WANG PATENT

Claims 1-15, and 17-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(e) and 103(a) based primarily on U.S. Patent No. 6,160,571 ("Wang"). Independent claim 1 has been amended herein to further clarify one of the aspects of the invention. Independent claim 1 requires "a switch component capable of being enabled and disabled by the control signal ... ," and "an amplifier configured to be controlled directly by the control signal."

Independent claims 10 and 18 require similar modes of direct control. Specifically, independent claim 10 requires "activating a switch component and an amplifier ... by sending a control signal from an upstream transmitter directly to the switch component and the amplifier ... ," and "deactivating the switch component and the amplifier by sending the control signal from the upstream transmitter directly to the switch component and the amplifier ... ." Independent claim 18 is a means plus function claim corresponding to claim 10.

One of the specific embodiments of the invention is capable of activating/deactivating a switch and an amplifier by a single control signal, thereby providing two layers of protection from noise leakage as described at, for example, page 21, lines 12-15 referring to Fig. 5. No new matter has been introduced by the amendments.

In essence, the claimed invention requires both the switch and the amplifier are controlled by a single control signal. Specifically, according to the invention, (i) an amplifier is configured to be controlled directly by the control signal, which controls the switch (claim 1), and (ii) both a switch component and an amplifier are configured to be controlled by the same control signal (claims 10 and 18).

In response to Applicants' argument, the Examiner states in the Office Action dated August 26, 2003 as follows:

> "The Psave signal 110, transmitter enable signal, enables the bias circuit 106, which in turn provides a bias signal to the driver 108 and the AGC 104 that *enables the amplification function*. Furthermore, the AGC 104 and bias circuit are implemented on *the same IC circuit using an NEC UPC3211 AGC Amplifier* in Wang invention. Clearly, the AGC 104 is configured to be controlled by the Psave signal 110 in Wang teachings." (emphasis in original)

Applicants respectfully disagree. The Psave signal 110 is shown on a line that is not connected to the line carrying the TX VAGC signal. As described and shown, Psave signal 110 does not feed AGC 104. The AGC 104 receives the TX VAGC signal 100. Psave signal 110 feeds bias 106, and may indirectly feed driver 108.

Separate unconnected lines are shown: one feeds driver 108 and the other feeds AGC 104. The lines are said to carry signals that are given different names: Psave signal 110 and TX VAGC signal 100.

Applicants cannot see how the reference reasonably suggests that the both driver 108 and AGC 104 are controlled by a single signal. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner more fully explain how the two components are so controlled. Please identify a specific portion of the Wang patent which indicates that the TX VAGC 100 and the Psave signal 110 are the same, single signal.

Further, it is respectfully submitted that the mere fact that the AGC 104 and the bias circuit 106 are implemented on the same IC circuit does not suggest that the two components, i.e., the AGC 104 and the driver 108, are controlled by a single control signal as claimed. As indicated, the circuit diagram shown in Fig. 2 illustrates that the AGC 104 is controlled by the TX VAGC 100, and the driver 108 is controlled by the Psave 110 via the bias circuit 106.

There are many IC chips which provide a multiple function blocks thereon. However, those multiple function blocks on the chips are not necessarily controlled by a single control signal. Rather, in most cases, they are individually controlled by physically separate control signals provide outside through connection pins. Therefore, unless there exists explicit description in Wang that the TX VAGC 100 and the Psave 110 constitute an identical, single control signal, those skilled in the art would not appreciate that the AGC 104 and the driver 108 in the Wang patent are controlled by a single control signal as claimed.

For at least the reasons set forth above, the Wang patent cannot be said to teach or suggest one of the claimed features, that is, (i) an amplifier is configured to be controlled directly by the control signal, which controls the switch (claim 1), and (ii) both a switch component and an amplifier are configured to be controlled by the same control signal (claims 10 and 18).

If the Examiner believes that other prior art shows the same "direct" control as now recited in the claims, Applicants respectfully request that such art be made of record and compared to the pending claims.

In view of the foregoing, the inventions defined in independent claims 1, 10, 18, and 21, and their dependent claims are believed to be patentable over the cited art. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

III. NEW CLAIMS 25-30

New claims 25-30 have been added to further recite one of the aspects of the invention. Specifically, claim 25 requires that "activating the switch component and activating the amplifier are performed in a synchronized manner." Claim 26 is a means plus function claim corresponding to claim 25. Support for the claims is found in, for example, the description referring to Fig. 4A and 4B in the specification.

Claim 27 requires "activating the switch component while keeping the amplifier activated if it is determined that the amplifier is not ... fast enough ... ," and "deactivating the switch component while keeping the amplifier activated if it is determined that the amplifier is not ... fast enough ... ." Claim 28 is a means plus function claim corresponding to claim 27. Claims 29 and 30 requires that "the amplifier is activated before the switch is activated, and the switch is deactivated before the amplifier is deactivated." Support for claims 27-30 is found in, for example, the description referring to Fig. 5 in the specification.

Applicants believe that these claims are allowable over the cited art since the cited references are believed to fail to teach or suggest the above-identified features recited in claims 25-30.

IV. CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance at an early date. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 510-843-6200, ext. 245.

Respectfully submitted,
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Limited Recognition under 37 CFR §10.9(b)

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Expires: August 28, 2004

Harry I. Moatz
Director of Enrollment and Discipline